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FILED
September 11, 2008
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
OF THE STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE
AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE:	Administrative Action
OF	
PAUL STEFFENS, LCADC	: ORDER GRANTING
	: UNRESTRICTED LICENSURE
TO PRACTICE CLINICAL	: TO PRACTICE CLINICAL ALCOHOL
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING :	AND DRUG COUNSELING
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:
	:

This matter was opened before the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee (the "Committee") of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners upon receipt of Paul Steffens' written request for an unrestricted license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling.

In respondent's initial application for licensure, he disclosed that he had plead guilty to medicaid fraud in 2002, had been sentenced to a term of three years probation, had been

debarred by Medicaid from providing direct billing for individual and group counseling services and was precluded from applying for any public office. Respondent submitted a copy of the transcript of his plea on December 20, 2002 in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division - Mercer County, Indictment No. 02-04-0039, in which he admitted that he was the Chief Executive Office of Hudson Behavioral Treatment Center, Inc. and that he was responsible for setting the parameters and work guidelines for employees. During the plea agreement, respondent testified that he created a system to record the names of the clients appearing at the program who were eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. Respondent further testified at the plea hearing that the system maximized the amount of services for which Medicaid paid Hudson Behavioral Treatment Center, Inc. by billing for a full day of counseling services for each client, without noting which clients did not attend the entire day's sessions. Respondent further admitted that the claims submitted through Columbus Hospital, a Medicaid provider, contained false representations concerning the provision of group counseling services to Medicaid recipients which were not, in fact, provided. Additionally, respondent provided a copy of the sentencing transcript of February 21, 2003. The transcript stated that respondent was sentenced to three years probation, monetary court assessments, was debarred by Medicaid from providing direct billing for individual and group counseling and was precluded from applying for any public office.

Pursuant to a Consent Order, filed on July 28, 2006 respondent was granted a restricted license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling and was precluded from providing alcohol and drug counseling services to any medicaid clients and from billing medicaid for his counseling services. Respondent agreed to a two (2) year period of probation. During the entire period of probation respondent was required to notify the Committee in writing of all counseling positions, to notify all employers of the Consent Order and respondent was required to submit a letter by each employer and supervisor acknowledging that the Consent Order had been read. During the first year of the period of probation, respondent was prohibited from supervising any counseling services. Additionally respondent was required to complete continuing education courses within one (1) year of the filing of the Consent Order. The Consent Order provided that after successfully completing the period of probation, respondent could seek an unrestricted license to practice alcohol and drug counseling.

Respondent has submitted documentation that he has complied with the terms of the July 28, 2006 Consent Order.

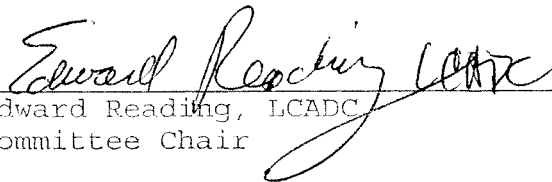
The Committee having reviewed documentation demonstrating that respondent has complied with the Consent Order and finding that the within Order is adequately protective of the public health, safety, and welfare;

IT IS on this 11th day of September, 2008,

ORDERED THAT:

1. Paul Steffens is hereby granted an unrestricted
licence to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling in the
State of New Jersey.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS



Edward Reading, LCADC
Committee Chair